In the Abstract:

Please replace the paragraph at **page 15, lines 3 to 21**, with a replacement paragraph amended as follows:

The method is used to detect A method detects the beginning of combustion in an internal combustion engine (1) comprising having several cylinders (2, 3, 4, 5), by means of from a rotation speed signal determined for a shaft (6) of the internal combustion engine (1). A segment signal (SS), whose signal length corresponds to an integral multiple of one or more full rotations of the shaft (6), is extracted from the rotation speed signal. A cylinder signal (ZS1, ZS2, ZS3, ZS4), which reproduces the operational state in a cylinder (2, 3, 4, 5), is generated from the segment signal (SS). The cylinder signal (ZS1, ZS2, ZS3, ZS4) is transformed into a cylinder frequency signal (FS 1, (FS1, FS2, FS3, FS4) in an angle angular frequency range. Signal information indicating the beginning of combustion in the associated cylinder (2, 3, 4, 5) is extracted from the cylinder frequency signal (FS1, FS2, FS3, FS4) at at least one predefined angle angular frequency.

[[Fig. 1]]

[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]

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